

Amalgam Safety (3/05)

Osborne JW, Swift Jr. EJ. Safety of dental amalgam. J Esthet Restor Dent 2004;6:377-388.

The purpose of this article is to provide the practicing dental provider with literature-review information regarding amalgam in order to discuss issues of safety with concerned patients. **The authors provide an overview of mercury, its abundance, and its many forms and toxicity, and studies relating to the safety of dental amalgam.**

DIS Comment: Despite the increasing use of tooth-colored restorative materials, amalgam use remains popular. Amalgam has been used for the past 150 years to restore billions of teeth. The safety of amalgam has periodically been questioned. Present evidence does not demonstrate that dental amalgam is hazardous to the health of the general population. While alternatives to amalgam exist, they have distinct disadvantages. This review article joins a growing list of peer-reviewed publications addressing the topic of amalgam safety. In order to simplify the discussion of amalgam safety with your patients, a Talking and Background Paper summarizing key issues are provided and available for downloading ([PDF document](#)).



References

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